

# The Communiqué

## Acting NNSA Administrator Visits Site Office and Lab



Acting NNSA Administrator Bill Ostendorff came to Los Alamos to get a first hand look at some of the Lab's facilities and to meet with employees at the Site Office. Ostendorff told LASO employees that "we are dealing with some of the most difficult and challenging tasks in the country."

Ostendorff spoke informally about his new NNSA role and about his prior work, which included serving as counsel and staff director for the Strategic Forces Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee and his career in the Navy.

He said there are six focus areas he and Tom D'Agostino are working on in the Administrator's Office.

- RRW and Complex 2030
- Federal Oversight of the Contractor

- Consolidation and Disposition of Special Nuclear Materials
- Project Management
- Vision of Labs for the future (20, 30, 40 years from now)
- Human Resources (employer of choice)



*"I'm pleased to be a part of the NNSA team. We are fortunate to have top notch employees performing important national security missions, including ensuring that our nation's nuclear weapons stockpile is safe, secure, and reliable without testing, and keeping nuclear material out of the hands of terrorists worldwide."*



*William Ostendorff listens to Laboratory Director Mike Anastasio describe some information about the Laboratory as Alex Gancarz of the LANL Contractor Assurance Office operates the computer.*



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## Acknowledgements



**Anita Leivo (Top-L) Jesus Amezcuita (Top-R) and Steve Fong (Bottom-L) were recognized for completion of their TQP program. Vicki Loucks (Below) and Dave Luke (Bottom-R) attained their Level 2 Project Management certifications**



## LASO All Hands – Oversight



In an All Hands meeting May 9<sup>th</sup>, Acting Site Office Manager Dan Glenn recognized achievements of some LASO employees and reported that he would be talking to the Administrator's Office concerning the LASO Oversight Pilot Project.

Glenn told employees the Pilot program is essentially completed.

He walked folks through a presentation on the

different types of oversight conducted at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

He talked about the Lab's Contractor Assurance System, oversight by external parties, and the Los Alamos Site Offices' assessments and reviews that are conducted as a matter of course in managing the contract.

Glenn stressed the importance of safe operations at the Lab and making sure folks see the good work being done here.

He also talked about the status of the Site Office retention allowance.

Glenn told employees Headquarters provided a formal response. The decision will allow folks to



continue to receive the allowance in full through Dec. 07. After that the allowance will be reduced gradually over the next three years.

"While I acknowledge this



news may not be received favorably by many, I felt it

was important to share as soon as we received the HQ decision," Glenn said.

He reminded everyone that even though the organization is trying to eliminate group retention incentives it was done in a manner to reduce the impact to our employees.



## 2007 P2 Awards Recognizes One of Our Own



**James Nunz waits with nervous anticipation**

James Nunz was recognized at the 2007 Pollution Prevention Award's ceremony for his participation in helping to cut costs and fuel use at LANL.

Nunz is a member of the Mixed Waste Milkruns team that looked at opportunities to

coordinate and combine shipments of waste materials off-site, thus the term "Milkruns."

Costs for transporting mixed (hazardous and radioactive) wastes across the country have reached an all-time high and continue to rise along with increasing fuel costs. LANL makes about a dozen shipments a year of mixed waste. When the opportunity arises LANL combines shipments with other DOE sites shipping similar wastes. A "milkrun" coordinated with a DOE facility in Texas saved LANL about \$5,500.



Chris Duy and Lisa Jones are the LANL Milkrun team members. The three were awarded certificates for their effort; however Duy and Jones were on travel the day of the ceremony.

This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year for the P2 Awards Program. This year 40 teams were recognized for their accomplishments. Congratulations to James and his teammates.



**James Nunz and LANL Principal Associate Director of Operations Vann Bynum**

## Gates Millennium Scholarship

What do Bill Gates and LASO's Sophia Calabaza have in common -- one Randi Ashley M. Begaye -- Sophia's daughter.



Begaye, from the Pueblo of San Ildefonso, Acoma, and the Navajo

Nation, is quite a driven young lady. At 18 and a graduate of the Santa Fe Indian School she is determined to become an attorney so she can help Native American Tribes.

While attending the Santa Fe Indian School Begaye was a member of the National Honor Society and on the Superintendent's Honor

Roll holding a 4.0 grade point average each semester. She maintained her GPA along with participating in Basketball, Track & Field, and Cross Country.



"This school year my daughter had the opportunity to apply for the Gates Millennium Scholarship," Calabaza said. "The application process required students



to answer four essay questions and only students with a GPA of 3.8 or higher could apply."

Twelve Santa Fe Indian School seniors applied and 10 were recipients including my daughter, she said. The other recipients represented the tribes of Acoma, Santo Domingo, San Juan, Santa Clara, Zuni and

the Navajo Nation.

Begaye will be attending the University of Kansas in the Fall studying Pre-Law. After college she wants to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Her focus is on helping Native American Tribes in the U.S. with the Bureau of Indian Affairs on Tribal Issues.

## May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer - accounting for about half of all the cancers. It's hard to know the exact number of skin cancer cases, because some cases are not reported. The American Cancer Society has designated May as Skin Cancer Awareness Month.



The best way to lower the risk of nonmelanoma skin cancer is to avoid intense sunlight for long periods of time and to practice sun safety. You can continue to exercise and enjoy the outdoors while practicing sun safety at the same time. Some smart sun safety tips include:

- Avoid the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Seek shade especially in the middle of the day when the sun's rays are strongest. Teach the shadow rule to children. If your shadow is shorter than you, the sun's rays are at their strongest.
- Cover up with protective clothing to guard as much skin as possible when you are in the sun. Choose comfortable clothes made of tightly woven fabrics that you cannot see through when held up to a light.
- Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of

15 or higher. Apply a generous amount (about a palmful) and reapply after swimming, towel drying, or perspiring. Use sunscreen even on hazy or overcast days.

- Cover your head with a wide-brimmed hat, shading your face, ears and neck. If you choose a baseball cap, remember to protect your ears and neck with sunscreen.
- Wear sunglasses with 99-100 percent ultraviolet (UV) absorption to provide optimal protection for the eyes and the surrounding skin.



Skin cancer is dangerous because everyone is at risk for it, no matter what the skin color. Everyone needs to protect themselves from the sun and should be familiar with their own skin, especially the pattern of moles, freckles and beauty marks. It may also be helpful to have someone else check the skin on the back.

Being alert to changes in the number, size, shape, or color of spots on the skin by thoroughly examining the skin is the best way to do this. A doctor should be called if any unusual changes are found.

Heading to a tanning bed is just as dangerous as tanning outdoors. Both can have lasting effects on the skin. Sun exposure adds up day after day. It happens whenever someone is outdoors gardening, sailing, skiing, fishing, hiking or simply walking to and from the car.



Sunlight reflects off water, sand, concrete, boat decks and snow. It also reaches below the water's surface. UV rays are present even on cloudy days. Also, some prescription drugs can greatly increase the skin's sensitivity to UV rays.

With careful examination of the skin, most melanomas can be detected early and treated successfully. When diagnosed early, melanoma can be cured. But if it is not found soon enough, it can be very serious.

No one is entirely free from the risk of melanoma. People who have many moles, irregular moles, or large moles are at the highest risk of developing melanoma. Others who run a high risk include those who have fair skin that burns and freckles easily like naturally red or blond hair; and those who have had sunburns as a child or as young adults. Although melanoma is less common among people with darker skin who seldom become sunburned, no one is immune to melanoma.

For more information about skin cancer call the American Cancer Society toll free at 800-ACS-2345 or visit their web site at: <http://www.cancer.org/docroot/home/index.asp>.



## Community Leaders Breakfast

Well over 90 community leaders attended the May Regional Leaders Breakfast which was hosted by Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Los Alamos Site Office.



Laboratory Director Mike Anastasio briefed the leaders about activities at the Laboratory, including the new goals and commitments.



Acting Site Office Manager Dan Glenn shared that, though he will only be in Los Alamos for another month more, this most

recent experience working with the laboratory has been positive. He shared his optimism that an ongoing, productive relationship between the Laboratory and the Site Office would continue to bode well for the community.



Laboratory Principal Associate Director for Science, Technology, and Engineering Terry Wallace told attendees "the core of Los Alamos is about discovery" in describing research and development at the Lab.

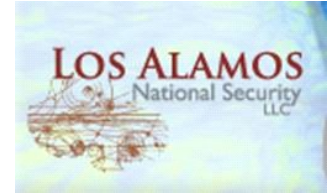
Symbolic checks were presented to representatives from New Mexico Highlands University, Northern New

Mexico College and three businesses. The checks are in keeping with Los Alamos



National Security, LLC's community outreach goals.

The breakfasts serve as a periodic forum to discuss current laboratory issues and to respond to questions from the community.



**Mike Anastasio talks to Santa Clara Pueblo Lt. Governor Alvin Warren**

## Ash Dump Clean-up Completed



An old Lab ash dump located on the sheer southern face of Pueblo Canyon near the Los Alamos Airport is now clean. Known as the Ash Pile the dump was used by DOE to get rid of residue from a nearby incinerator used to burn classified

documents.

When the incinerator was in use, wheelbarrows full of the ash from the incinerator were run out to the end of concrete ramps and the contents dumped into the canyon. The scattered ashes eventually covered about two-and-a-half acres of the canyon face.

The project, scheduled for completion last fall, was slowed when the contractor found asbestos in the ashes. Then with the onset of winter, snow and rain moved in and crews were forced to wait for snow to melt and the ground to thaw to restart work in April.



DOE project director David Gregory said "This was one of the most challenging environmental restoration jobs ever at Los Alamos."

More than 4500 cubic yards of ash was removed.

Some special equipment was brought in to aide in the clean-up, including an intrepid backhoe tractor known as a Spyder (above) that could operate on a 70-degree slope.

Any potential risk the ash may have posed is now gone, Gregory said. Some final sampling of the area should confirm that.



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## D'Agostino Nominated

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas P. D'Agostino as Under Secretary of Energy and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration.



D'Agostino served as NNSA's Acting Administrator for three months and as Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs for the past fourteen months.

## In Case You Missed It

### Blood Drive

Just a reminder about the first ever **LASO blood drive** scheduled for Jun. 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We only have two people signed up and need at least 40...so how about it???

Will you help by being a



hero??

Please contact Bonita Eichorst for an appointment, or you may make an appointment online, just go to [www.unitedbloodservices.org](http://www.unitedbloodservices.org) and click on "donate

blood" and follow the prompts.

By the way...did you know that when you donate you get a FREE cholesterol screening??? So, see...there is something in it for YOU!

### Service Center IT Changes



**National Nuclear Security Administration  
Service Center Intranet**

Hours of operation for the Service Center Helpline are now 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. MST Monday through Friday. You may leave a recorded message with the trouble you're having during peak periods or outside of these hours.

Service Center Video Teleconferencing and Conference Center Support hours are now Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00

p.m. MST.

Requests for applications support and current development work will be prioritized behind critical NNSA enterprise initiatives. Any new development and support work will be postponed until FY08.

Funding will not be available for additional standard and non-standard hardware or software. Current

version licensing on most user software products will not be renewed.

Web publishing services requests should be submitted through the Nevada Site Office helpline for processing.

Operations and network support on services such as file restores or mailbox recovery may require a two to three day turn around.

### LLNL Contract Awarded

**LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY**  
*Science in the National Interest*

On May 8<sup>th</sup> DOE announced that Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) was selected to be the management and operating contractor for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

LLNS is a limited liability corporation made up of Bechtel National, Inc., the University of California, BWX Technologies, Inc., and the Washington Group International, Inc.

The team also includes Battelle Memorial Institute, four small business subcontractors, and Texas A&M University.



"Livermore National

Laboratory is a critical part of our nuclear weapons complex and has been for the last 55 years," Secretary Bodman said. "For the first time since the beginning of the laboratory a new contractor is coming to Livermore. We look forward to working with LLNS as Livermore continues its vital national security work."